HELLO from our Federal Director and his wife

Since coming to Australia, there have been a number of "firsts" that have come my way. No, not any awards - but my first time over Sydney Harbour Bridge, my first sermon, the first mosquito bite ... and so on. For all of us in our family, the past three months have been a time of new beginnings and fresh experiences. Now comes my first article for "The Pioneer". What shall I say?

Perhaps it is not too terrible to steal the title of some one else's book and to say right now: *"I believe in Evangelism"*. This may be rather stating the obvious. Nonetheless, it is so vital and fundamental to all the Society's work, that as a supporter and fellow-worker you have a right to know where I stand.

This is an age when it has become fahsionable in some quarters to be rather apologetic about holding any belief very strongly. But I *believe* in evangelism. Wherever there is human need, however that is being experienced, just there the good news of Jesus Christ is relevant and important. There is no such thing as a theology which is divorced from people and their day-to-day lives. Evangelism to me, then, means getting involved in a relationship.

The Church Army Officer is firstly one who has experienced the love and transforming power of God in his or her own life. This does not imply the evangelist will never experience doubts or problems. On the contrary, to become involved in a relationship with a God of love means we will be keenly aware of injustice, suffering and tension - and want to be at the very point where these things occur. Because of this our Captains and Sisters must become involved in a relationship with other people - right where they live, work and play. To shout encouragement or good advice from the side-lines just will not do.

In "The Pioneer" you read from time to time of different pieces of work where our Society is able to carry on a ministry of outreach in the name of the local church. Sometimes this is in a regular parish setting, or maybe through a special mission campaign; sometimes with youngsters, or maybe amongst the elderly; sometimes in places of industry, or maybe with the "alternate culture"; sometimes working with crippled children, or maybe by distributing Christian literature. I feel it is a privilege to be called of God to lead a Society of evangelists who seek to make the love of Christ known in these and other ways, so that people may respond to that love and experience it for themselves.

Yes, I *still* believe in evangelism. Because of this I would like to thank all of you who support our work and have shared in this exciting ministry in the past. Also, because of this, as "the new boy" I dare to ask for your fervent prayers and your regular gifts for our work. I dare to ask more

Back to TASSIE

It is quite a few years since we've had an Officer working in Tasmania. So it seemed to be time we paid a visit.

Captain Page, Captain Mattinson and Captain Cullen recently spent a week there, beginning with preachments in Launceston on Sunday, 11th February and concluding in Hobart on Sunday, 18th. During the week, they visited parishes in between Launceston and Hobart, including some tiny mining villages.

Between them, they were able to meet up with some long-standing supporters and also make some new friends for the Church Army.

The Church at Fingal - one of the places visited.

young people to consider training at our own College. There are so many opportunities to be grasped today, places where if only we had the resources Church Army could share in an even greater way in the great commission given by our Lord to His Church.

In the future, as I travel around, I hope to meet many of you who read our magazine. But, do please feel free to write to me about any matter. It is a great encouragement to us all to know that we share in fellowship with so many other Christians throughout Australia in experiencing and making known the love of Jesus.

Gilbert A. Page.

* *

"LET GO AND LET GOD HAVE HIS WONDERFUL WAY" is very much the attitude I have been trying to develop in the last few years. Since Gilbert and I were asked to consider the post of Federal Director, when we were in England, I have been very conscious that, for a Christian, the only truly satisfying place to be is just where God wants you. It has been thrilling to see His plan unfolding as He has led us here.

Whilst Gilbert has been "taking up the reins" in his job, the children and I have been settling into our new schools. I am now teaching at the Autistic Diagnostic Teaching Centre in Forestville. We are all learning what is involved in settling into a new country.

Gilbert is having to listen and learn much, and as quickly as he can, to be effective in his job. We have all very much appreciated how fellow Christians have made us welcome and helped all of us as a family, in many practical ways. Please continue to pray for us and we look forward to getting to know many of you personally, in the years to come.

Ruth

Back Row: Rae Kennedy. Front Row: (from left) Glen Scott, Jill Morrow, Peter Middleton and David Woodyard.

NEW AT COLLEGE

Meet our seven first-year students.

JILL MORROW is from Belmont, N.S.W., and has been nursing for nearly 2 years at Royal Newcastle Hospital.

She has been a Sunday school teacher and, because of nursing shifts, was sometimes able to help with scripture classes too.

Jill is quite musical and played the guitar for the youth group in the Parish of Mayfield (suburb of Newcastle).

Her interests include the guitar, violin, classical music, Australian poetry, handcrafts, running, sketching and writing poetry.

RAE KENNEDY is from the little town of Boorowa in New South Wales.

She has worked as secretary/book-keeper for two stock and station agents, with a 13 months' trip overseas in between the two jobs.

Rae was involved with the youth fellowship (especially with singing), she played the guitar for Sundayschool and served on the Parish Council and Diocesan Synod.

She likes gardening, playing tennis, crochet, singing and reading.

PETER MIDDLETON is the only "Kiwi" in College this year. He comes from Dunedin, N.Z., and originally from Te Awamutu.

Since he left school, Peter has worked most of the time for the National Bank, and then Dunlop New Zealand Limited. He also worked for short periods at a cemetery, dairy company, as a carpenter's labourer, a psychiatric nurse aid and a waiter.

He likes walking and has been a Bible class leader, a cell group leader, been in a music group and served on a parish visiting team.

GLEN SCOTT is one of three students from Wagga Wagga N.S.W.

He has had a variety of jobs - junior insurance clerk, paper deliverer, labourer in a hide processing factory, carting hay, work at the abattoirs and, most recently, Youth Worker in the Parish of South Wagga.

Riding his motor bike, camping, hiking and working on his dad's farm are top of the list of Glen's interests.

DAVID WOODYARD is from Frankston, VIC., and is engaged to Lynne Kelly.

He likes bushwalking, athletics, and was a scout leader for mentally-handicapped boys. He has the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

In his Parish, David was the Branch Governor for the Church of England Boys' Society.

He worked for a fabrication specialist, making canvas goods.

FRIDAY

THE COLLEGE OF EVANGELISM:

The Principal, The Rev. G.L. MacRobb, Mrs. MacRobb, Michael & Katrina.
All Lecturers. *The Cook,* Mrs. S. Allen.
Candidates' committee and our need of suitable candidates.
Second Year Students: Jenny Thomson, Carol Tokley, Phillip Jackson.
First Year Students: Rae Kennedy, Jill Morrow, Peter Middleton (N.Z.), Glen Scott, Bob Stubbs, John Symons, David Woodyard.

* *

Please pray for...

PARISH MISSION 1 - 12 April, Parish of Weipa, Qld. *(Captain K. Cullen)*
PARISH MISSION 20 - 27 May, Parish of Booval, Dio. of Brisbane *(Captain K. Cullen)*

PARISH MISSION 24 June - 1 July, Parish of Normanton, Qld. *(Captain K. Cullen)*
BEACH MISSION 12 - 16 April, Menindee Lakes *(Captain B. Mattinson and 4 Students)*

DISABLED CHILDREN'S CAMP 6 - 11 May, Springwood, N.S.W. *(Sister P. Free)*
PRAYER & NEWS AFTERNOON 27 May, C.A. Brown Memorial Village, Booragul, N.S.W. *(Captain G. Page & Captain B. Mattinson)*

AN EASTER PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, You conquered death and rose from the dead, and You are alive for evermore, help us never to forget Your Risen Presence for ever with us.

Help us to remember,
That You are with us in every time of perplexity to guide and to direct;
That You are with us in every time of sorrow to comfort and to console;
That You are with us in every time of temptation to strengthen and to inspire;
That You are with us in every time of loneliness to cheer and to befriend;
That You are with us even in death to bring us through the waters to the glory on the other side.

Make us certain that there is nothing in time or in eternity, which can separate us from You, so that in Your presence we may meet life with gallantry and death without fear.

This we ask for Your love's sake. AMEN.

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH ARMY

Bless, O Lord, the work of the Church Army to the conversion of sinners and the strengthening of the faithful. Endue its workers with the power of Your Holy Spirit that they may witness faithfully, courageously and consistently to the principles of Your Gospel, and the faith of Your Church, for Jesus Christ's sake. AMEN.

EVANGELIST at The Ridge

- CAPTAIN LES FERNANCE

The Church at Lightning Ridge.

Lightning Ridge is a place with many contrasts.

The tin humpies, mine dumps, pock-marked earth and swirling clouds of dust present an uninviting appearance.

Blistering heat at 120 degrees in the shade.

Occasional wild winds and whirlies rip across the open plains with great fierceness.

On the other hand, one is amazed at the number of very fine homes and the multitude of fascinating colours which flash from the famous black opal.

Winter is mostly mild, but can be extremely cold, particularly if there has been rain.

The people also are a great contrast - all different nationalities and from a wide range of occupations and educational backgrounds.

It is incredible to see the red soil (which can be set like iron) change with a little rain, to a hopeless oozy mess, which will be blowing away again as dust, after a little sunshine and wind.

The ground is incredibly hard in places, and those who mine for opal certainly earn their living.

The township is developing fast, with many of the normal city attractions. Bitumen sealing of roads, curbing and guttering, a town water supply and electric power have dramatically changed the Ridge from the place it was in "the good old days".

While only 700 people are registered on the electoral roll, the Post Office information indicates a regular population of up to 3,800 and an increase up to 10,000 at Easter time, when fossickers flock in during the holiday period. Unfortunately, because of the low number on the roll, the town is deprived of many much-needed facilities, such as an ambulance, hospital and government offices, etc. The plans laid out for the future indicate that the Ridge could develop into a very big centre.

Lightning Ridge in the past has gained a bad reputation owing to some of the things which still exist, e.g. poverty, child neglect, marriage breakdown, and a place for criminals to hide away, especially illegal immigrants.

The fellowship in the Church here is a real blessing and it's good to be together in the Lord. We have experienced a very sobering time in the last few weeks, of testing and maturing individually and as a congregation.

We are still coming across many weird sects, cults and beliefs. It is also quite amazing to see the involvement of people in occult, witchcraft, sorcery practices and things like transcendental meditation.

(continued page 3)

For many years, some of you have followed with interest the ministry of Captain Allan Polgen, who died last August.

For the last couple of years of his life, Allan lived at the Rectory in Enmore/Stanmore Parish in Sydney. .The Rector of that Parish recently informed us that the Churchwardens and Parish Council have opened a special appeal to purchase vestments for the Parish in memory of Allan.

If you are interested in giving to this Fund in thanks for Allan's ministry, please address your donation to:

The Allan Polgen Memorial, St. Luke's House, P.O. Box 64, ENMORE, N.S.W., 2042.

Cheques should be made payable to:

"St. Luke's Church Enmore with St. Augustine's Stanmore".

THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

P.O. BOX 107, FRENCH'S FOREST, N.S.W., 2086

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THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH ARMY: The Church Army was founded in England in 1882, by Prebendary Wilson Carlile. It is a lay Society of men and women Evangelists of the Anglican Communion. Other autonomous Societies were founded in the U.S.A. in 1927, Canada 1928, Australia 1934, New Zealand 1935, Eastern Africa 1962, Jamaica 1969. Officers from some of these Societies are also at work in Germany, South America, South Africa, Botswana, West Pakistan and Italy.